कहा है कि यह टोटल 499 करोड़ की प्रोजेक्ट थी और उसके ऊपर 456 करोड़ रुपये आलरेडी स्पेण्ड हो चुके हैं इस हिसाब से 93-94 per cent has already been spent on the project.

मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या प्रोजेक्ट भी इतने परसेन्ट कम्पलीट हो चुकी है ? अगर इतनी पूरी हो चुकी है तो क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि जैसे पंजाब में पहले सिचुएशन थी, वहां पर पैरा-मिलिटरी फोर्सेस थीं, लेकिन अब आर्मी भेज दी गयी है, ऐसी हालत में अभी थोड़ा 5–7 परसेंट काम बाकी रह गया है, वह इस पीरियड में पूरा कर लिया जाये ?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : सभापति जी, करीब 10 प्रतिशत काम अभी बाकी रह गया है और उसको पूरा करने के लिये हम लोग प्रयास कर रहे हैं । जैसा मैंने कहा है, अभी तक जो पंजाब के अधिकारीगण हैं, वहां के जो राज्यपाल हैं, उनके सलाहकार हैं, उनकी तरफ से जो भी सुझाव आये हैं, वे सुझाव ऐसे हैं कि जिनके आधार पर अभी इस काम को शुरू नहीं किया जा सकता है और इसलिये हम लोग उनके साथ विचारविमर्श कर रहे हैं । जैसे ही कुछ तय होता है हम काम शुरू कर देंगे ।

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह : सभापति जी, सरदार हंसपाल जी ने, लाठर जी ने और चौधरी रणजीत सिंह जी ने भी कई बार मंत्री जी से यह जानने की कोशिश की है कि चूंकि पंजाब में इस वक्त केन्द्रीय शासन है, तो क्या वे पंजाब गवर्नमेंट से कोई कमिटमेंट लेंगे कि किस वक्त तक, एक साल में, छः महीने में, यह बाकी का जो 10 परसेंट काम बचा है, वह पूरा कर लिया जायेगा '?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Expansion of telecom network in the country

*21. SHRI SURESH *KALMADI:* Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the Telecom network in order to provide telecommunications to the rural areas and also to provider a telephone to each Panchayat and along all the national highways at every 50 kilometers or so in the coun try; and

(b) if so, by when the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OP STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CQMMUHICA-TIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to make telephones available practically on de-. mand in the rural areas by the end of 8th Plan. All the Village Panchayats are planned to be covered with telephone facilities progressively by 31st March, 1995. It is proposed to cover most of the national highways by the end of 8th Plan.

National Seminar en Henstng

*24 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national Seminar on housing was held in New Delhi on the 29th September 1991;

(b) if so. whether any drawbacks in the existing housing policy and the law governing the housing development were highlighted in the Seminar; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove these drawbacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No National Seminar on Housing is reported to have been held in New Delhi on 29th September, 1991. However the undermentioned Workshop/Seminars are reported to have been organised by two non-Govefnment bodies in New Delhi in the last week of September, 1991:—

(1) National meet on Housing Needs, finance, Legislation and Policy organised by the Socio-Eco-nomic Research Foundation, New Delhi on 25-27th September, 1991.

(2) Workshop on Structural Adjustment Policies and Living Conditions in India Organised by the National Campaign for Housing Rights on 24-25th September, 1991.

"(b) and (c) Government have not yet received the proceedings or recommendation of these Seminars.

Delay in Despatch/delivery of Dak

*27. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: "Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that' at present there is abnormal delay in despatch and delivery of dak in the country, even, for short distances;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for deterioration in the Mail delivery services; and

(c) the steps being contemplated to expedite the delivery of dak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, case of recurring delay to mail in any sector has been noticed or reported. Except for a small part of mails, every postal article transits through one or more mail offices depending on the destination. Occasional dislocations in mail system on account of transport failure unusual bulk of the mail or shortage of operative staff have an adverse effect, which may lead to cumulative delays sometimes.

(b) The reasons for delay to mails are:

(i) Late running|non running of trains|air planes|buses.

(ii) Abrupt shortage of staff] absenteeism.

(iii) Local disturbances like Bundh Strike etc.

(c) (i) To avoid delay|dislocation, the following steps have been initiated:

(1) Better quality control checks by the Supervisors.

(2) More effective liaison with transport system.

(ii) To improve delivery at destination, system of delivery of mails has been restructured. The number of deliveries of receipted mail has been increased from one to two and the number of deliveries of ordinary mail from two to three in big cities. This restructuring will ensure that maximum volume of mail is given out for delivery on the day of receipt in post offices.

Irrigation Financial Corporation of Bhopal

*28. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish an Irrigation Financial Corporation with its headquarters at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh to extend funds for execution of certain projects;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and